(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) A case of dubious mail order business in Purnea Postal Division, Bihar, was detected during departmental investigation. The matter was then handed over to the CBI.

(b) and (c) Irregular booking of Value Payable Letters and payment of Money Orders to the fake firms have been stopped pending verification of the genuineness of such firms. Action has been taken against errant departmental staff. The case is still under investigation by the CBI.

Public awareness campaign through IT visits

†957. SHRIMATI KUK KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start public awareness campaign through information technology visits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would be successful with the present rate of literacy among the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Extension of Green Card facilities

958. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the UK, the US and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

European Union countries to extend Green Card facilities to Indian IT professionals by the end of the year 2004;

(b) if so, what is the response of each of these countries; and

(c) the number of requests from Indian professionals and entrepreneurs for such Green Cards for each country of destination pending with Government as on April, 2003 and how many of them have been issued such cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Green Card Scheme is applicable only in Germany. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) had taken up the issue of extension of the scheme with relevant authorities in Germany. The German Federal Cabinet has approved the extension of the "Green Card Initiative" for foreign IT specialists till 31st December, 2004. The new regulation also removes the earliers fixed ceiling of 20,000 work permits.

(c) The Green Card Scheme was introduced by the German Government in August, 2000. Till 30th October, 2003, a total of 15,360 Green Cards have been granted, out of which 4,174 were given to Indian nationals, the biggest national group of German Green Card holders.

Complaints of sexual harassment

959. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Manager of BSNL, Uttar Kannad has received any complaints for sexual harassment against personnel of B.S.N.L. office at Joida; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complainant is not a BSNL employee. The issue is a family dispute between relatives. The whole matter is sub judice since a case